

Manistee County P.E.G. Commission Minutes

January 11, 1995

6:00 p.m.

City Hall

- PRESENT:** Angela Morin, Nancy Lemier, Deb Terrell, Bill Shales, Tom Kaminski, attending and speaking: Cliff Selkoe, Tex Collins, Ben Bifoss, Bruce Gockerman, Glenn Carlson, and Mark Carlson.
- CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by chairperson, Terrell at 6:00 p.m.
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes of the December 7 were read and a correction was made to the date and adjournment time. Shales moved to accept the minutes of with that correction, seconded by Morin, motion carried. Terrell presented the Purpose and Mission Statement.
- PROPOSALS TO CITY COUNCIL DEC. 7 MEETING:** Discussion was held on the presentation of the proposals to the City Council on December 7, 1994. Terrell tried to reach Kaminski, who was absent, and Shales tried to reach Carlson, who was also absent. Terrell read the purpose and mission statement out loud. Terrell reiterated "none of these recommendations or decisions of the committee are in cement. This is a new and evolving group. We are not experts, nor claim to be. We saw opportunities on the public access channel and we are just trying to accomplish that."
- Terrell stated that one of the recommendations was two operators: Infoprod, Inc. and Cliff Selkoe, Brett Michaels. Selkoe would like access to the channel during the day. Shales reiterated that the recommendations to the City Council were a basis to start building on and not to push anybody out, although some people took it wrong.
- C-TEC INPUT:** Shales said he would like to talk to C-tec. Terrell stated she has tried to contact McManus of C-tec several times with no results. Discussion followed, with comments from Collins.
- REVISIONS:** Morin stated her rebuttal to the revisions was due to the fact that "they were not reflected in the minutes." She further commented on her concern that the cost of C-tec's involvement in the public access channel not to be passed on to the public. Also the possibility of being forced to have two public access channels because of Filer City's Franchise Agreement. There should have been a representative from C-tec and Infoprod, Inc. present when recommendations were being written. Terrell stated all have notice of meeting dates and times.
- FRANCHISE AGREEMENT:** Terrell questioned the Franchise Agreement which has no dollar amount in the grant section. Ben Bifoss stated it wasn't pertinent at the time but a dollar amount could be added if indicated.
- QUALIFICATIONS OF OPERATORS:** Morin brought up her concern of not having anyone to check the qualifications of operators. Discussion followed. Shales reiterated his concern that "C-Tec, Infoprod, Inc, and Selkoe be invited to meetings. Also Infoprod, Inc. hasn't made its reasons for opposition for expansion of the channel known. They went to the Filer meeting and made statements that aren't true and all we're trying to do is see that the channel is used to its fullest." Discussion followed.
- Carlson stated that Infoprod, Inc. owns all the equipment located at channel 2 except for one piece of coax for video and one audio line. Discussion followed. Shales stated that one of the recommendations was to have a switching system put in for the operators equipment.
- PROPOSED REVISIONS:** Morin stated her concern that the revisions not be brought before the next City Council meeting. Terrell stated the revisions were proposed revisions from her with hopes of discussing them at this meeting. Discussion followed.
- Selkoe stated that his understanding was that the city has not appointed Infoprod, Inc. as an official operator. They have been running the channel at will. Ben Bifoss said that there has been no issue as to Infoprod, Inc. being the operator. Shales suggested a meeting with Filer. He does not understand why Infoprod, Inc. is so mad. He feels they have been doing a good job. He does not feel the channel is not being used to its fullest. It may take two operators.

FINANCIAL STATUS: Shales stated the reason the P.E.G. Commission is requesting a financial statement from Infoprod, Inc. was to see if they were making a profit or loss. Infoprod, Inc. should not be paying for the channel out of their pocket. Shales mentioned he was tired of the personality problem, and they should work something out." Kaminski said "he agrees with everything Shales said and that everything was hashed out and alot of discussion at the last meeting and it wasn't like this was thrown together in a half hour we talked a long time. Terrell reiterated that P.E.G. is not trying to run anybody out of town or ruin their business they are trying to make the channel more accessible and readily available and the people who are operating it be fiscally sound. She stated "I have heard the complaint from Infoprod that it is loosing money, and we don't want anybody loosing money. That is why we want to see financial statements". Shales told Infoprod, Inc. "if they can make money on the channel, that's between them and the IRS".

REVISIONS: Morin stated the recommendations should be done as a group. Morin expressed her concern of having citizens pay. Shales suggested setting up a meeting with C-Tec, if it has to be at there convenience then we should do it. Morin expressed concern that C-Tec has been invited to all meetings. Terrell stated they had been, and she had been in contact with McManus, the Regional Manager.

A comment from a citizen was that she would rather watch nothing than the continuous scroll of the channel. Discussion followed, Terrell brought the meeting back to order.

INFOPROD, INC. COMMENTS: Shales asked Mark Carlson when he arrived what was the reason for his negative attitude? Shales has no problem working with Filer and "we are not trying to take anything away from you but to use the channel to its fullest". Carlson replied two operators will not benefit the channel, and he would not work with Selkoe. Gockerman stated that the P.E.G. Commission needs to make recommendations to City Council. If C-tec and others won't come to meetings to give advice, state that in the recommendations. If there are dissenting opinions from Committee Members also state that in the recommendations.

NEXT MEETING: The next PEG Committee meeting is February 8, 1995, 6 p.m., at City Hall.